

GIP 2713  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SEP 3 1999

APPLICANT: Ryoji Suzuki, et al.  
SERIAL NO. 09/159,569  
FILING DATE: September 24, 1998  
INVENTION: "SOLID-STATE IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE AND DRIVING METHOD THEREFOR"

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. P98.1699  
GROUP ART UNIT: 2713 Group 2700  
EXAMINER: #5



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

HON. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration in the above-identified application. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ Within 3 months (1) of filing date of a national application; (2) of date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last. (No fee is required.)
- ☐ After the mailing date of a first Office Action but before (1) mailing of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113; or (2) mailing of a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.
  - ☐ Payment for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) accompanies this submission; or
  - ☐ The certification specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is made below. (No fee is required.)
- ☐ After the mailing of (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113; or (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311 whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee. The certification specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is made below. The Commissioner hereby is petitioned to consider the Information Disclosure Statement accompanying this submission. Payment for the Petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) accompanies this submission.
- ☐ The undersigned counsel for applicant(s) hereby certifies each item of information identified in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The undersigned counsel for applicant(s) hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, or to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover any required fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 08-2290. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for this purpose.*

Very respectfully,

HILL, STEADMAN & SIMPSON  
A Professional Corporation

By David B. Metzger, Reg. 32,919  
Hill, Steadman & Simpson, P.C.

When phoning re this application,  
please call (312) 876-0200 Ext. 3084

Sears Tower, 85th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone (312) 876-0200

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. on August 30, 1999.

David B. Metzger

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Group 2700

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

APPLICANT(S): Ryoji Suzuki et al. ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: P98,1699  
 SERIAL NO.: 09/159,569 GROUP ART UNIT: 2713  
 FILING DATE: September 24, 1998  
 INVENTION: "SOLID-STATE IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE AND DRIVING METHOD THEREFOR"

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, DC 20231



S I R:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants request that citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO-1449 form, copies of which are enclosed herewith accompanied by English-language Derwent abstract, where required, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, be made during the course of examination of the above-mentioned application for United States Patent. Except as provided, the undersigned does not possess English translations of the non-English references.

**I. SUBMITTED UNITED STATES PATENT REFERENCES**

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Patent Number</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
AA	4,041,519	Melen	February 10, 1975
AB	5,345,266	Denyer	April 23, 1992

**II. SUBMITTED FOREIGN PATENT REFERENCES**

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Patent Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
AL	FR 2 736 782	France	January 17, 1997

**III. SUBMITTED PUBLICATIONS**

AR S. Mendis et al., "CMOS Active Pixel Image Sensors for Highly Integrated Imaging Systems", IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits, Vol. 32, No. 2, February 1, 1997, pp. 187-196.

AS H. Kawashima et al., "A 1/4 Inch Format 250K Pixel Amplified MOS Image Sensor Using CMOS Process", IEEE Proc. of the Int'l Electron Devices Meeting, Washington, D.C., Dec. 5-8, 1993, December 1993, pp. 575-578.

#### IV. REMARKS

References AA, AB, AL, AR and AS were cited for the reasons noted in an European Search Report conducted by the European Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed for the Examiner's review. Reference AL, which is in French, discloses a photon detector reading device for a camera. Since references AA, AB, AR and AS are in English, no further commentary concerning their teachings is necessary.

A copy of an English-language disclosure abstract for reference AL from Derwent's WPI database is included.

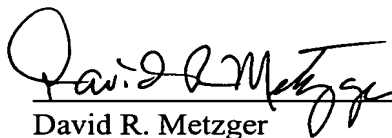
None of the above references discloses or suggests a solid-state image pickup device or driving method therefor as disclosed and claimed in the present invention.

As of the date of mailing of this Information Disclosure Statement, a first Office Action on the merits has not been received in connection with this application, and therefore, this Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), and no fee is necessary.

Each reference cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, and therefore, this Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all claims of the application are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of the above references, taken singly or in combination. Early consideration of the application is, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,

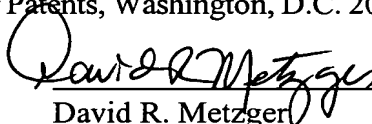


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class in an envelope addressed to Hon. Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 30, 1999.



Reg. No. 32,919

David R. Metzger